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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1396th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 15 August 1991, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia)
(Vice-Chairman)

- Organization of work

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Slaby (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: As members are aware, the Committee has concluded consideration of almost all the items on its agenda. The only questions pending are the adoption of the draft resolutions relating to three of the items the Committee has considered this year, as well as the 98th report of the Working Group.

I have been informed that very limited progress has been made in the preparation of those draft resolutions. I hope members will take the opportunity to concentrate their efforts on those draft resolutions during the informal consultations that will follow this meeting so that we can conclude this session as soon as possible. I appeal to all delegations, and I trust that the spirit of compromise and cooperation that has always prevailed in our work will once again guide our approach in dealing with those delicate issues. I invite all delegations to stay in this room for those consultations.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In view of the fact that the Committee has already virtually concluded its work, and that little time remains until we leave this forum, I should appreciate a clarification concerning the documentation for the Committee's work. In particular, I have not thus far seen a single record of the Committee's meetings - not even the first meeting. I should like to know how things stand in that regard, particularly as there is but little time left prior to the next General Assembly session. In our view, the meetings that have taken place during this session were very important. Delegations have

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

made statements that are not only of interest but also essential for preparing for the upcoming General Assembly session. Hence I should like the Committee's documentation to be available to members, at least in a reasonably short time from now, particularly in view of the usual statutory time limits in the work of United Nations organs.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall transmit the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union to the Secretariat, and through the Secretariat, to the responsible Division.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): With regard to the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, I think that the delay in documentation is a problem members have suffered from over the past few years, particularly documentation in Arabic. I believe there are a number of records that have yet to be issued in Arabic. At any rate, documentation should be issued in a timely fashion, making it possible for us to submit timely reports and to transmit them to the individuals concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: The comments just made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic will also be transmitted to the Secretariat.

The next meeting of the Commission will be announced in the Journal.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.